

# The American Observer

*Stick - C6*  
A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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## Closing of the U. S. Coal Mines

Work Stoppage Calls Attention To Serious Problems That Affect Entire Nation

THE nation's coal miners laid down their tools on March 14, when called upon to do so by John L. Lewis, President of the United Mine Workers of America. Most of the mines east of the Mississippi River were affected and more than 400,000 men participated in the walk-out. The men were supposed to go back to work on the day this paper is dated, but they may stay away from the mine pits longer than had been originally planned.

Union officials insist that this work stoppage cannot be considered a strike. They describe it as a "memorial period." The UMW's contract with the mine owners provides that the union may set aside such periods, during which the men suspend work. Mr. Lewis took advantage of this provision in calling the men from the mines.

The purpose of the "memorial" work stoppage, according to the union leader, has been two-fold: (1) to "mourn the unnecessary slaughter of 55,115 men killed and injured" during the year 1948; (2) to protest against the appointment of James Boyd as director of the federal Bureau of Mines.

Dr. Boyd was appointed to this position by President Truman in 1947; but, largely as a result of union opposition, he still had not been confirmed by the Senate at the time of this writing. He has held the position without

(Concluded on page 2)



DRAWING FOR AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOHNSON

## Argentina Fears Hard Times

Growing Inflation at Home and Loss of Foreign Markets Force President Peron to Take Drastic Steps in Attempting to Ward Off Economic Crisis

WITHIN recent months Argentina's leaders have become increasingly worried over business conditions in their country. Farm and factory production is falling off. Meat, grains, and other products which Argentina sells abroad are piling up on docks and in warehouses—exporters cannot find enough customers for these goods. A number of foreign firms, such as General Motors and Ford, are closing their branch plants in that country. Prices have risen steadily, and the Argentine people are feeling the effects of inflation more every day.

Until a short time ago, Argentina was one of the most fortunate and prosperous lands in the world. It is

primarily an agricultural country and its stocks of wheat, corn, beef, and linseed were desperately needed by the hungry millions in Europe and elsewhere. One writer has said that the world was literally "lined up at Argentina's door."

About three years ago Argentina was in a position to buy almost anything it wanted from other countries. While most of the nations of the world were at war there was little that Argentina could buy from abroad and, consequently, the money Argentine exporters earned by selling their products to the Allies had to be saved. When the fighting ended, Argentina had large sums of foreign currencies on hand. Today, however, most of

that money has been spent for products from other lands.

As yet there is little unemployment in Argentina and to the casual observer the nation appears to be prosperous. Nevertheless, those who have made a careful study of Argentina's problems believe that there will be a depression within six months or a year unless proper steps are taken immediately. Businessmen, farmers, and government officials are discussing this possibility and are trying to find the answer to two questions: What caused the present situation and what can be done about it?

Most observers agree that Argentina lost many of its customers by demanding excessively high prices for its farm products and refusing to sell for less. For a while Great Britain and other nations were forced to pay the high prices or do without food they needed. But as farm production in other parts of the world has increased, those nations have been buying less and less from the South American nation.

Meanwhile, Argentina has used up most of the foreign currencies that it earned during the war. The Peron government has encouraged industrialists to buy products and equipment from abroad that will help to expand Argentine industry. Leaders of that country hope to strengthen the nation's industries so that the people will not have to depend primarily on agriculture for a livelihood. A five-year plan is being carried out along this line.

In addition, the Peron government is seeking to make Argentina a strong military power. A considerable portion of the nation's supply of foreign currencies has been used to purchase war materials and equipment from other lands.

This whole program is expensive  
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Walter E. Myer

## A Few Rules for Consideration

By Walter E. Myer

AFTER reading the editorial on mental housecleaning, a student writes that she and her friends would like to get rid of selfishness, irresponsibility, petulance, prejudices and other such harmful habits of thinking and behavior, but they don't know exactly how to do it. They ask for suggestions about first steps in mental housecleaning.

This student and her classmates have already, without realizing it, taken the first and most important step. They see that there is a problem. They admit that they are imperfect and they want to change some of their habits. When people reach that stage the battle is half won.

The highest hurdle along the road to better ways of living is indifference. So many young people simply don't care. They are smug and self-satisfied and feel no urge to improve. The students

who wrote the letter have passed that hurdle. There are still obstacles to overcome, but they can be handled by anyone who really means business. It isn't easy to describe steps that need to be taken, but a few suggestions can be made. If, for example, you are tied down by party prejudice, get rid of it by wide reading. If you are a Democrat, go to newspapers and magazines and find out what the Republicans are saying about current issues. If you are a Republican, read the Democratic arguments. Get acquainted with both sides and many of your preconceived notions will soon vanish.

If you want to become less selfish in your conduct, try consciously to understand how other people feel about things and what they think. Avoid doing or saying anything that will be injurious to any of the people you know. Once in a while stop and ask yourself, "How will this thing that I am doing or saying affect the people with whom I associate?"

If you are small-minded, petty or gossipy, get the little unworthy things out of your mind. Read good books and magazines, both fiction and non-fiction. Then talk about what you have read. That will be better than to talk all the time about your friends. Remember that you can push ugly, little things out of your mind by putting bigger and more important things in it.

If you are ashamed of your taste in music, give the dial a turn now and then and bring in something worth your listening. If you want to quit wasting time, prepare a daily time budget and force yourself to follow it for a while. If you are inclined to be irresponsible, take on a new job about the house, school, or neighborhood and be absolutely dependable in doing this work.

Don't be a scatterbrain. Fix your attention on a few of the habits you want to change and you will soon find yourself passing the obstacles along the way. You will move surely to higher levels of conduct.

# Problems of the Nation's Vast Coal Industry

(Concluded from page 1)

pay since his appointment in January, 1948.

The union leaders say that Boyd is incompetent and not qualified for the job as head of the Bureau. They assert that he has had no experience in coal mining, doesn't understand the problems of the industry and cannot be depended upon to work effectively to promote safety in the mines. He is blamed by union leaders for the heavy accident toll in 1948, for acci-



DR. JAMES BOYD. John L. Lewis's opposition to Dr. Boyd's appointment as director of the U. S. Bureau of Mines was one reason why the miners were called from their jobs.

dents which resulted in more than a thousand deaths and more than 50,000 injuries.

Defenders of Dr. Boyd argue that he has worked extensively in mining problems, has had experience in copper mining, has served as Dean of the Colorado School of Mines. They deny that he has been negligent in working at the safety problem, asserting that the 1948 record was actually better than the average during recent years.

It is argued further that the Bureau of Mines has little power in dealing with accidents. The agency can send inspectors into the mines, condemning those which are unsafe, and it can recommend safety measures, but it cannot enforce its recommendations. Enforcement of safety rules is in the hands of the states and some of them have been woefully negligent.

No one questions the sincerity of John L. Lewis' concern about the accident problem, but many believe that the closing of the mines two weeks ago was not ordered for the sole purpose of mourning for the dead and injured or as a protest against the Boyd appointment. Some other motives, it is thought, entered into the picture.

The miners' present work contract runs only until June 30, 1949. Before that time the miners and the mine owners will enter into discussions to determine the nature of the new contract which is supposed to be adopted by June 30. Negotiations about hours, wages, safety provisions and other working conditions will probably begin early in May.

As the period for discussing the new contract approached, the miners' union was not in a good position to negotiate, chiefly for this reason: During recent months an unusually large surplus of coal has accumulated. When the walkout was called, 70 million tons of coal were above ground. This was enough to run the country for about six weeks. The steel plants

were well supplied and certain other key industries had unusually big surpluses.

The existence of this large surplus weakened the bargaining position of the mine workers. It dulled the edge of their most effective weapon, the threat of a strike, for a strike hurts worst and most quickly when there is little coal on hand. The mine owners would not be so likely to give the miners a favorable contract if a good supply of coal were available.

Under the circumstances, what is more natural than that Lewis should close the mines for a while, so as to reduce the surplus? He couldn't do it by calling a strike, for a strike without notice and a "cooling-off period" is illegal; but he could accomplish the same result by stopping work during a "memorial period." The stoppage probably has cut the coal surplus down by about 20 million tons.

The two-week layoff has at best been a rather expensive "holiday." The miners lost their wages. Certain eastern railroads which carry coal from the mines suffered a loss of business and over 50,000 of their employees were dropped. But most of the big industries of the nation were unharmed and householders did not suffer from lack of fuel.

Though the closing of the mines has not had a crippling effect on the nation's industry, it has raised important issues and served as a warning of troubles to come. Before the end of June, coal will be back on the front pages of the papers. There will be demands and counter demands, threats of strikes and threats of strike-breaking. We have come to expect such coal-labor turmoil at frequent intervals.

Meanwhile two long-range problems of the coal industry will command the attention of thoughtful Americans. One of these is instability of coal production. For many years previous to the war, overproduction haunted the industry. When all the mines were open and all the miners were fully employed, more coal was dug than

could ordinarily be sold. Huge surpluses appeared.

The companies had difficulty in selling their products. Frequently there was price-cutting, which wiped out company profits. The workers, as well as the owners, suffered from such a condition. When surpluses accumulated, the companies laid off men or kept them at work half-time or less.

These troubles temporarily disappeared during the war years. At that time, the nation needed all the coal that could be mined. After the war was over, demand for coal continued, for industry was booming and a great deal of coal was being sent to Europe.

There are signs that the old problem of overproduction is now coming back. We are not shipping so much coal to Europe as we did, and business activity has fallen off somewhat, cutting down the demand for coal. Then last winter the weather in eastern United States was unusually mild. This cut the demand for hard coal. These factors, working together, account for the 70-million-ton coal surplus.

## Labor-Saving Devices

To make production matters worse, labor-saving machinery of remarkable efficiency is being put into the mines. *Time* describes a new machine which, in 60 seconds, "ripped two tons of coal off the pit face and loaded it into a shuttle train," and "set up the rumble of revolution in coal mining."

What will happen as these new machines are put into mines already flooding the market? Will some of the workers be dismissed? Will all the present workers be kept, but at shorter hours? Will consumers get some of the benefits of lowered production costs? Will owners get larger profits and workers higher wages?

Can the owners and workers decide in advance how much coal can be sold, and produce only that much, dividing the orders among the various companies? Can workers be given regular employment, working only enough hours to produce the coal which the country needs?

These are among the vitally important problems to which informed attention must be given if we are not to have continual chaos in one of our absolutely essential industries.

Another problem relates to mine safety, or lack of it. Each year more than a thousand men are killed in the mines and more than 50,000 are injured. David G. Wittels presents in the *Saturday Evening Post* some appalling figures illustrating the dangers which attend coal mining.

The average miner, says Mr. Wittels, can expect to work only about seven years "without being overtaken by violent death or injury." A miner working 30 years has only a 4 to 1 chance of escaping disablement for life.

It is hard to fix the blame for the terrible costs in life and limb which attend coal mining. Some companies are callous offenders. In order to save money, they refuse to equip their mines with safety devices. Other companies follow a progressive policy and do everything in their power to insure a maximum of safety.

Some states have better safety codes than others. Some miners are cautious, while others recklessly take chances, endangering their own lives and the lives of others.

There is little doubt, however, that most of the accidents could be prevented if the federal government, the states, the mine owners, and the workers would cooperate in promoting a safety program. According to the *Saturday Evening Post* article to which we have referred experts of the United States Bureau of Mines estimate that 50 to 90 per cent of the accidents are preventable.

It is probable that the present session of Congress will consider a bill to give more power to the federal Bureau of Mines. This Bureau has inspected hundreds of mines and has recommended that many of them be closed because they are unsafe. It is possible that Congress will empower the Bureau of Mines to enforce its own recommendations.



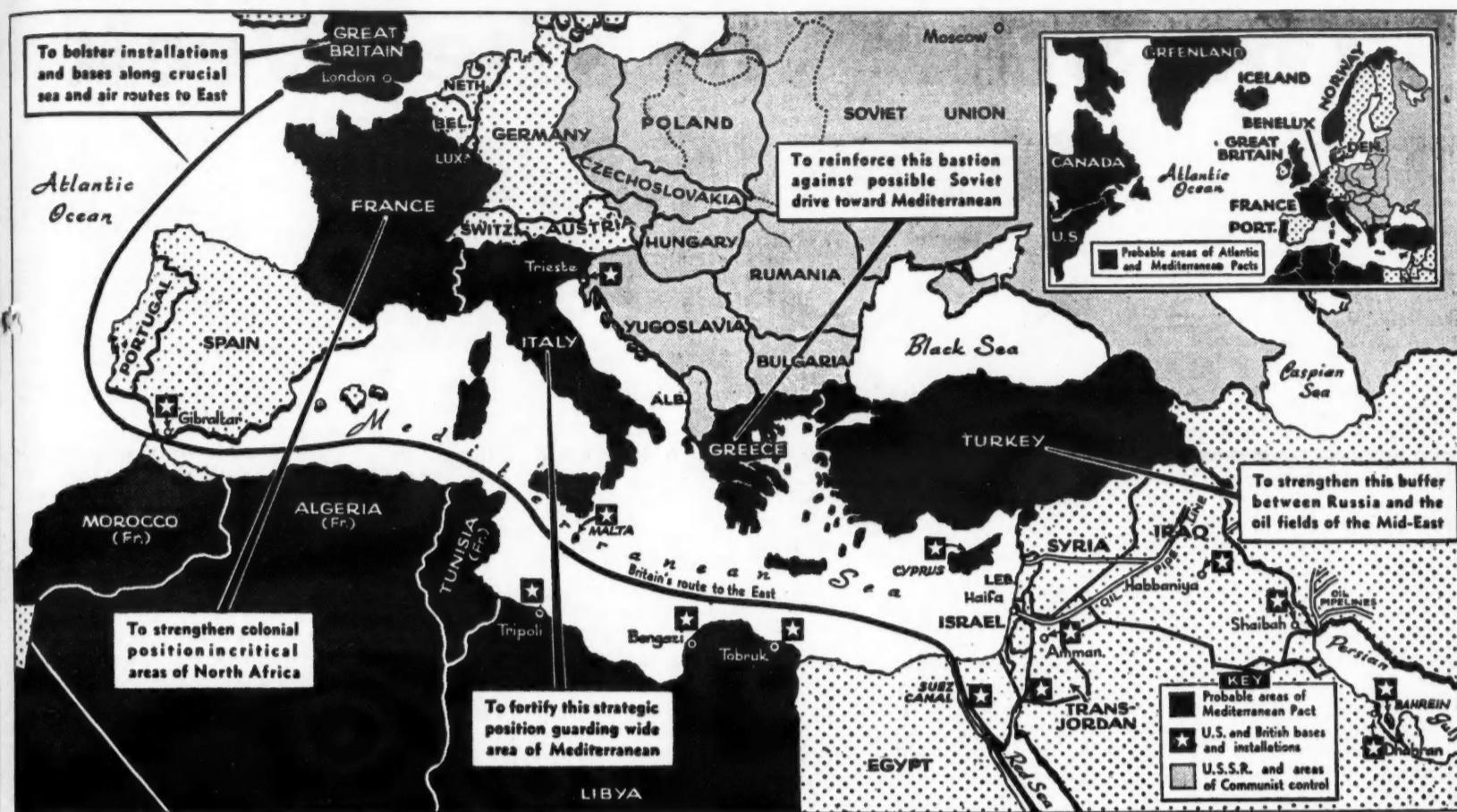
"YOU'RE in no position to criticize"

The cartoon on the left illustrates the view of persons who think the miners have as much right to leave their work as our lawmakers have to filibuster. The drawing on the right takes a critical view of the miners' chief.



THE MINE CHIEF'S favorite pose

SEIBEL IN RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH



AFTER THE NORTH ATLANTIC PACT is completed, the next such agreement may be an alliance of nations bordering on the Mediterranean Sea

## North Atlantic Pact Is to Be Signed Next Week

**Regional Agreement May Be Model for Defense Alliances in Other Areas**

After eight months of discussions, the United States, Canada, and six European nations recently agreed on the terms for the North Atlantic Pact. In the opinion of many observers, the pact is a document of great historical importance—one that may help in a big way to prevent another war from breaking out.

The agreement will be signed in Washington by the participating countries during the first week of April. Besides the United States and Canada, the other nations which are certain to sign include Great Britain, France, Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg. The pact will go into effect when it is ratified by the various governments involved. In the case of the United States, the treaty must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

The text of the epoch-making agreement was made known by our State Department a short time ago. Its most important feature places a moral obligation upon the signatory nations to come to each other's aid if one or more of them is attacked. The agreement also provides that the nations signing the pact will help one another build up their military forces.

The pact will run for 20 years and it will apply to a "security" area including the lands bordering and located in the Atlantic Ocean north of the Tropic of Cancer. The agreement will be reviewed after the first 10 years to enable the participating nations to study the manner in which it has operated and to decide whether they wish to renew it for the second 10-year period.

Besides the eight nations mentioned above, other countries have also shown interest in the agreement and, by the time this paper appears, they too may have agreed to sign. Den-

mark and Iceland, for instance, sent their foreign ministers to Washington several weeks ago to confer with Secretary of State Acheson regarding the pact. Portugal has been discussing its terms with our ambassador in Lisbon, and Italy may also join.

The United States Senate is expected to ratify the pact because the agreement does not commit us *legally* or *automatically* to go to war in case one of the pact's members is attacked. But we are bound *morally* to do so, because nations signing the agreement are depending on us to support them in any war in which they are involved. Congress, however, still retains the right to decide whether we shall join a conflict.

Our State Department is highly encouraged over the number of nations that have agreed to join the pact. When the idea of a North Atlantic

regional agreement was first suggested last year, the Department thought that only Canada, Great Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg would agree to sign such an agreement. There are now at least eight countries that have come into the alliance, and in the end there may be twelve or more.

Russia, of course, has violently condemned the pact, saying that we are preparing to wage a war against her and her allies and that we wish to dominate the world. The Communist parties of other countries have also attacked the agreement, warning that, in case of war between Russia and the Western powers, they will support Russia.

The proponents of the agreement contend that the one and only purpose of the pact is defensive. Furthermore, they say the agreement is based on

the provision in the United Nations Charter that permits the formation of regional alliances.

Because of the fear of Russia, nations in areas other than Western Europe and North America are said to be considering forming regional agreements similar to the North Atlantic Pact. A number of Mediterranean countries, for instance, are known to be thinking of drawing up a defense treaty. Such a pact would be designed to guarantee the security of the entire Mediterranean area against possible attack by the Soviet Union or her satellites in Europe.

The nations that might join such an agreement are Greece, Turkey, Italy, and several members of the North Atlantic Alliance. France, for instance, would be asked to come in because she has colonies in North Africa and she borders on the Mediterranean. Great Britain is being suggested as a member because of her possessions in the Mediterranean and her vital interest in keeping this body of water free from Russian control. The United States would be sought as a member because of its opposition to the spread of communism and its great military power.

Spain would be a valuable member of a Mediterranean pact because of her strategic location at the western end of the Mediterranean Sea. If such a pact is formed, there is certain to be a heated controversy among the nations involved over whether Spain, which has not been permitted to join the UN, should participate in a Mediterranean alliance.

Discussions of regional agreements in areas outside the North Atlantic are still in a preliminary stage, but as soon as this Pact is signed, attention will undoubtedly be given them.

—By DAVID BEILES.

### YOUR VOCABULARY

In each of the sentences below, match the italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers may be found by turning to page 8, column 1.

- What is the *clamor* (kläm'er) all about? (a) rumor (b) meeting (c) uproar (d) treaty.
- He was an *avid* (äv'äd) reader throughout his school days. (a) very poor (b) disinterested (c) eager (d) dramatic.
- Did the job seem *arduous* (är-dü-us)? (a) difficult (b) easy (c) worthwhile (d) impossible.
- An *erratic* (ë-rat'ik) person is: (a) extremely energetic (b) mean

and stingy (c) very talented (d) odd or strange.

- He seemed *distraught* (dis-trōt') at our last meeting. (a) distressed (b) happy (c) angry (d) tired.

6. His orders were *incoherent* (in-kō-hēr'ent). (a) muddled and inconsistent (b) distinct and definite (c) harsh and cruel (d) difficult to carry out.

- An *innocuous* (i-nök'yoo-us) statement is: (a) sharp (b) harmless (c) tactful (d) weighty.

8. The movie was filled with *pathos* (pay'θōs). (a) sorrowful scenes (b) humorous remarks (c) dramatic incidents (d) scenes of fantasy.

# The Story of the Week

## UN and Spain

When the UN Assembly convenes at Flushing Meadow, New York, April 5, it may admit Spain to membership in a number of its social and economic agencies, though it may refuse to accept her as a full-fledged member of the Assembly itself. Such action is predicted by observers who believe that only a few countries are still as hostile toward Spain as they were two and a half years ago.

At that time, the Assembly adopted a resolution attacking Spain for its support of the Axis powers during World War II. Under the resolution, Spain was prohibited from joining either the UN Assembly or any of its subsidiary organizations, such as the World Health Organization and the Economic and Social Council. All the member nations of the UN were asked to withdraw their ambassadors from Spain.

Many countries are now believed to be willing to resume their relations with Spain because that nation is no longer looked upon as a threat to the democracies. It remains to be seen, however, whether the members of the Assembly will return their ambassadors to the Mediterranean country.

## Connecticut Yankee

Bing Crosby plays the title role in the latest filming of the Mark Twain classic "A Connecticut Yankee in King



WILLIAM BENDIX and Bing Crosby are starred in "A Connecticut Yankee."

Arthur's Court." The famous story was brought to the screen in 1931 with Will Rogers as the star and made a big hit at that time. It is likely to be every bit as popular with easy-going Bing playing the part of the Yankee who outsmarts the Knights of the Round Table.

The film opens with Crosby inspecting a castle in England in 1905. He is thrown off a horse, and when he wakes up, he is back in the 6th century. From that moment on, Crosby falls into one humorous predicament after another. As a clumsy knight who befriends Crosby, William Bendix furnishes plenty of laughs. Rhonda Fleming has the feminine lead and sings a duet with Crosby.

## Panama Canal

According to Hanson Baldwin, military analyst for the *New York Times*, leaders of our armed forces are no



LEADING U. S. FIGURE SKATERS—Gretchen Merrill of Boston and Dick Button of Englewood, N. J., are shown in the picture on the left. Yvonne Sherman of New York is on the right. See note on this page.

longer as concerned as formerly over a possible attack on the Panama Canal. They still look upon the canal as an important link between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and they plan to defend it to the best of their ability. But the officials do not believe that the canal has the same value to our national defense it had in the years before the recent war.

The reason for this change in attitude, according to Mr. Baldwin, is that we now have a two-ocean Navy rather than, as in the past, a one-ocean Navy. In case of war, we have enough ships to guard both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, and the Panama Canal would not be needed for the transfer of vessels from one ocean to the other.

Mr. Baldwin believes that the Panama Canal would still possess some importance during a war. He points out that, in case of a conflict, our railroads would be unable to carry all the necessary freight from one coast to the other and the shipping industry would be called upon to do part of the job. This, of course, would mean that the canal would be used.

Since the United States now has a two-ocean navy, however, and since the Air Force is becoming increasingly powerful, the possible destruction of the Panama Canal would not be a decisive blow to our nation.

## American Skating Talent

In past years the sport of figure skating was largely dominated by athletes from Canada and Europe, but now the United States is coming to the top in this field. A number of young Americans have proved themselves among the best in the world in national and international competition during the past winter.

The outstanding individual among the present "crop" of young American skating stars is, of course, Dick Button of Englewood, New Jersey. Button, a 19-year-old Harvard freshman, is world champion in the men's division and has won numerous other titles in the past few years.

Earlier this month 18-year-old Yvonne Sherman of New York won the women's title in the North American championship skating event. She is the first American to hold this title in 10 years. Miss Sherman finished second to a Czechoslovakian skater in the world championship events held in Paris last February.

the newly established government comply with their wishes completely, or whether they favor a "coalition" type of regime, in which the Reds will cooperate with other parties.

While the Communists are consolidating their gains north of the Yangtze, little progress has been made toward a peace settlement with the Nationalist government. Acting President Li Tsung-jen, who succeeded Chiang Kai-shek as leader of the Nationalist government, is willing to come to terms with the Communists, but he does not want to accept their demands for outright surrender.

## Anti-Communist Bills

A number of bills that would either make the Communist Party illegal or bring it under some kind of government control are now under consideration by Congress. While no two of the measures are identical, they are all designed to restrict or eliminate the Communists' influence in American life.

The two principal bills were introduced a few days ago, one by Senator Homer Ferguson, of Michigan; the other by Senator Karl Mundt, of South Dakota, and Representative Richard Nixon, of California. Both measures would make it illegal for a person to help establish a totalitarian dictatorship in the United States and they would require Communists and organizations which they control to register their names with the Department of Justice.

The bills would also prohibit Communists from obtaining passports to visit foreign countries. This provision is intended to prevent them from getting in touch with Russian officials.

Those who support the passage of a bill directed against the Communists say that drastic action is necessary to check the activities of the Communist Party and its sympathizers. They contend that Communists are actually agents of the Russian government and are doing all they can to undermine our democracy. It is also argued that, in time of war, the Communists would make every effort to obstruct our government's activities.

Those who oppose the anti-Communist measures include, of course, the Communists themselves. But



SOAP IS A LUXURY in most European countries. These Italian boys are using the first of the "luxury" that they have ever seen.

they also include a number of patriotic Americans who believe that all individuals, including the Communists, should enjoy the privilege of free speech and the right to carry on their activities so long as they do not practice or promote violence. These persons argue that we already have laws that protect our government from persons who try to overthrow it.

### Good or Bad Policy?

During the last few years, Russia has been severely criticized by many nations for her hostility toward the rest of the world. She has been censured, for instance, for starting and continuing the Berlin blockade, for making warlike moves against such countries as Iran, and for generally threatening the peace of the world.

Recently, certain newspapers in this country have criticized our Air Force leaders for making "needless" hostile remarks and for "warmongering"



ACME  
A PROUD LADY of the seas—the USS Tarawa, 27,000-ton Essex class carrier—moves up the East River in New York. She's on her way to join the "mothball fleet."

themselves. The *Washington Post*, for example, says it would be hard to convince a foreigner reading the latest wave of publicity exploits by the Air Force that the United States is not determined to go to war. These illustrations are given by the *Post*:

"First came the round-the-world flight of the B-50 and attendant interpretations of this country's ability to bomb any spot in the world. Then the story that the B-36 had flown 9,600 miles nonstop, carrying a bomb load 5,000 miles. Then the Air Force finding that Russia has no adequate defense against the B-36.

"Finally, there comes what appears to be an inspired leak to the effect that some 70 strategic targets in Russia have been earmarked as possible bombing objectives and that the Air Force has assured the Joint Chiefs of Staff that each of these cities could be attacked from bases on this continent.

"Military strategists would be remiss if they did not have plans for hitting back at Russia—and any other potential aggressor—in time of war." But, continues the *Post*, the effect of the Air Force propaganda "is to indict us as a nation of warmongers where the military has run wild."

"What must be the reaction to such stories in Europe, where the very essence of our efforts is to counteract fears of war? How much more dangerous must be the reaction in Russia, if the Russians are actually the victims of an insecurity complex!"

These criticisms of the Air Force are answered in the following manner:

"It is true that the Air Force has made a number of statements regarding its ability to conduct bombing missions anywhere in the world. But it had good reason for doing so. Like many people in the United States, the Air Force believes that the only way to prevent another war is to warn all potential enemies that they could never win such a conflict. The Air Force is doing a real service to the cause of peace by warning would-be aggressors."

### Baseball Controversy

When a professional baseball player signs with a club, he is bound by the provisions of a "reserve clause" included in every contract. This clause says that once a player has signed with a team, he has to stick with that club until the management releases him, or sells or trades his services. Even if he refuses to play because he thinks the salary offered him is too low, the player is prevented by the reserve clause from joining another pro team in the United States.

Several legal suits have been brought against the head men of baseball, challenging the legality of the reserve clause. The court actions have been taken by several players who left big-league teams in 1946 to play baseball in Mexico.

At that time the players were charged with violating the reserve clause and were forbidden to play pro baseball in America for five years by the head men of our national game. These players, who once more want to follow their profession in this country, have asked that the ban against them be discontinued.

The argument put forth in support of the players is as follows:

"The reserve clause is illegal because it makes baseball, in effect, a monopoly in which the management has powers over its workers that no other industry has. If players try



INTERNATIONAL NEWS  
MORE UNITY? General Dwight Eisenhower (second from right), on leave from the presidency of Columbia University, discusses plans for making the merger of our armed forces more effective than it now is. With him, left to right, are: General Hoyt Vandenberg, Chief of Staff of the Air Force; Admiral Louis Denfeld, Chief of Naval Operations; and General Omar Bradley, Chief of Staff of the Army.

to better themselves by going to work for a club which offers them a raise in pay, they are punished by being deprived of their means of livelihood.

"Players should be allowed to sell their services to the highest bidder just as are workers in other fields. When they are not allowed to do so, players are practically slaves to their owners. The reserve clause should be eliminated from baseball contracts."

Those who want to retain the reserve clause advance this argument:

"The reserve clause insures that a player who has been painstakingly trained by a club will not immediately 'jump' to another team that can afford to pay him more money. If players were allowed to shift voluntarily from one team to another, baseball would be ruined as a great sport, for then the wealthiest team would soon end up with all the good players. There would no longer be any competition, and the game would lose its appeal. The reserve clause must be retained."

The outcome of the present legal actions may have far-reaching effects on professional baseball. The first de-

cision may have been made before this paper reaches its readers, but final decisions will probably not be made for some time. Fans and players are eagerly awaiting the outcome of the controversy.

### Filibuster Outcome

Since the filibuster ended, the Senate has been trying to make up for lost time. Action on the European Recovery Program, rent control, housing, industrial disputes, and other important matters were brought to a standstill for about three weeks while the filibuster over proposed Senate rule changes dragged on.

The outcome of the filibuster was regarded as a victory for the Southern Democrats who carried out the delaying tactics. With the aid of a majority of Republican senators, the Southern Democrats succeeded in defeating the anti-filibuster legislation proposed by Administration leaders. In its place the Southern Democratic-Republican coalition passed a "compromise" resolution of its own.

Under the new rule, two-thirds of the total membership of the Senate—64 members—may, if they wish, cut off debate on all matters except one. The single exception is this: debate cannot be cut off on any discussion relating to future changes of the Senate rules. Thus, for example, the new rule that was just passed can never be changed if a few senators have the strength and will power to talk continuously against it.

Critics of the rule point out that, when bills are being voted upon in the upper house, there are nearly always a number of senators absent for one reason or another. Thus, it is argued, to require at least 64 members in the Senate to shut off debate means that such action will seldom be taken.

Supporters of the rule say that it should not be possible to end debate in the Senate until a large majority of members are in favor of doing so. The new rule, they say, is an improvement over the old one, which did not even permit two-thirds of the senators from closing debate in a dispute over whether a bill should be taken up by the Senate.

The first test of the new rule will come when the administration tries to pass its civil rights legislation. The Southern Democrats are expected to use all possible tactics to keep such legislation from coming to a vote.

### THE LIGHTER SIDE

The plumber rang the bell and, as it happened, both the master and mistress of the house came to the door. As they stood in the hall the husband said, "I wish before we go upstairs to acquaint you with the trouble."

"I'm very pleased to meet you, ma'am," said the plumber.

★ ★ ★

Judge: "And what is the verdict of the jury?"

Foreman: "We find the defendant is not guilty, your honor, but we recommend that you warn him not to do it again."



"All I did was swing my arms a bit to keep warm!"

"Does the foreman know the trench has fallen in?"  
"Well, sir, we're diggin' him out to tell him."

★ ★ ★

"You can't trust anybody, nowadays. Why, my own grocer gave me a phony quarter in change this morning."

"Let me see it."

"Oh, I haven't got it anymore. I gave it to the milkman."

★ ★ ★

"How is it you know so much about the Smiths' affairs?"  
"We're looking after their parrot while they're away."

★ ★ ★

Mistress: "Nora, you've left finger-prints on nearly every plate."

Nora: "Well, ma'am, it shows I don't have a guilty conscience, anyway."

★ ★ ★

Grocer: "Now that I have given you a job I must tell you that early hours are the rule in this store."

New Boy: "That's good. You can't close too early for me."

★ ★ ★

A scientist declares that many animals laugh. They could hardly help it if they observed people closely.



MEAT is a leading Argentine product

## Argentina's Future

(Concluded from page 1)

and now that Argentina is not selling agricultural products abroad in such large quantities, she cannot buy nearly so much from abroad. That is one of her big difficulties.

Many Argentine businessmen feel that the government's labor policy is also partly to blame for the present state of affairs. They say that President Peron has done everything to win the support of the workers without any thought as to how industrial output would be affected. Wages have been raised, hours shortened, and numerous workers' benefit plans have been put into operation. One law, especially opposed by employers, requires them to give each of their employees a bonus of one month's salary at Christmas.

These measures have made the President popular with the workers, but they have greatly increased the costs of production, and businessmen, in turn, have had to raise the prices of their products. Bonuses and wage increases have put more money into the pockets of the workers but have also encouraged inflation. And, instead of doing better jobs now that they receive higher pay, it is claimed that many workers have been slowing down so that production has fallen off.

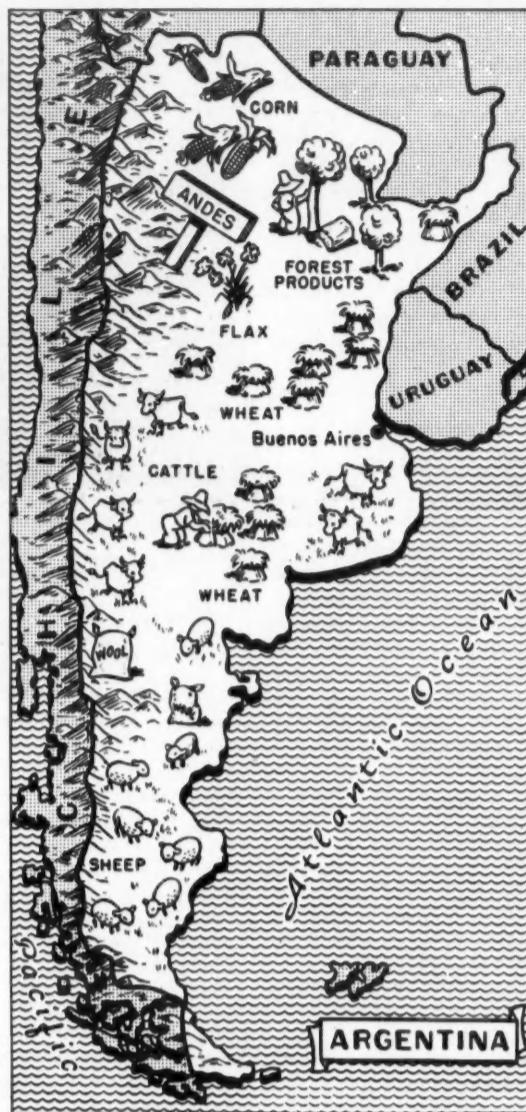
### Experts Have Met Daily

During the past few weeks Argentine financial experts have been meeting daily to try to work out a solution of their country's problems. So far they have taken several steps which should help. The prices of wheat, corn, and other grains have been lowered and, from all indications, Argentina will work out more generous agreements with its foreign customers in the future than she has in the past.

Moreover, rigid restrictions have been clamped on all imports into Argentina. Only goods which the government believes to be necessary to the nation's welfare may be brought into the country. For instance, an Argentine merchant might not be allowed to import fur coats, but he could buy machinery needed for the nation's industries. In this way, Argentina's leaders hope to protect the country's dwindling supply of foreign money and yet continue the five-year plan of industrialization.

At the same time, ways to fight inflation and economize on government expenditures are being considered. The nation's tax system is being revised, postage rates and fares on the government-owned railways have been increased, and five of the government's main agencies were ordered to trim their budgets.

President Peron fears that if ways to ward off a depression are not found quickly, he will lose the support of the people. Most businessmen and farmers already oppose the government, and recently the



laboring classes have become restless. A number of strikes, brought on by the high cost of living, have occurred lately, and others were averted only when the President and his popular wife appealed to the workers personally.

If President Peron fails to ward off an economic crisis, he will have only himself to blame, for he has the power to do about as he pleases. Although Argentina has an elected government, Peron is practically a dictator and his authority extends over every phase of Argentine life. Political groups, labor unions, and individuals who criticize the government are quickly forced into line.

By controlling most of the nation's newspapers and radio stations, Peron and his followers are able to prevent critics of the government from putting their ideas before the majority of the people. Argentina's national trade union organization, which is government-controlled, is able to abolish local unions that oppose government policies.

Business firms, also, are completely under the thumb of the government. It tells them what hours their employees should work and what wages they should receive. The government itself handles much of the country's foreign trade through an export-import organization. This agency purchases products from the manufacturers and farmers, and then sells the products abroad at a profit to the government.

The Argentine Congress has consistently granted Peron any powers he has requested. His supporters in the legislature recently approved the adoption of a new constitution which concentrates still greater control than before in his hands. One provision of the document allows Peron to serve another term in office. Under the previous constitution no President could succeed himself.

Peron's power dates back for some years before he became President. He was one of a group of military men who overthrew the government in 1943. Peron was considered the strong man of the group and played a dominant part in the government, holding for a time the posts of Minister of War and Vice-President. He gradually increased his power and influence and about three years ago was elected President.

Many people in the United States have been opposed to Peron, not only because of his "undemocratic" government, but also because of his record during the war. Argentina did not declare war against the Axis powers and, in fact, became a haven for some Nazi leaders. Peron was believed by many to have been friendly with the Germans.



JUAN PERON, President of Argentina

Critics of Peron also fear Argentina's growing influence in Latin America. The Argentines are an especially nationalistic people and have always been jealous of the dominant role that the United States plays in Hemisphere affairs. Under Peron, they have tried to increase their own prestige and to arouse feelings against the United States in the southern continent.

The Argentine Navy has been sent on a number of good-will visits to South American ports. Labor and trade experts have been sent to neighboring countries to offer advice and help, and young men of those nations have been invited to attend Argentine military schools. While most of the Latin American nations have been willing to accept these favors, some of them have been concerned over Argentina's expanding military power and growing strength.

Relations between the United States and Argentina were very strained at one time, but they have become more friendly in the past year or so. Many leaders of our government seem to feel that we must maintain a friendly, cooperative attitude toward Argentina. They contend that its support is as necessary for the defense of the Hemisphere as is that of the other 20 nations. They support their arguments by adding that we are on good terms with other Latin American nations that are ruled by dictators.

### Reply Made by Critics

Critics of this viewpoint reply that Argentina is not to be trusted so long as President Peron is in power. They insist that we should do nothing that might help him to continue his "dictatorship."

In the light of its present financial difficulties, Argentina may become less hostile toward us. In fact, there is a rumor that Peron may ask the United States to lend his government money to help it restore the Argentine economy.

Also, Argentina's chances of continuing to be a menace to neighboring nations are lessened by its present troubles. It does not have the money to go ahead full speed with its program of internal and external expansion.

It is generally agreed that Argentina can regain a healthy economy, if proper steps are taken. Its soil is excellent, its climate ideal for farming, and its products fill a definite need in world trade. Normally, about 75 per cent of the world's frozen meat comes from Argentina, as does about a quarter of the wheat.

According to *Publishers' Weekly*, more than 9,800 books were produced in the United States in 1948. Fiction was most popular, accounting for more than 1,600 of the total output. However, books on science made the largest gain over the previous year.

## Science News

SCIENTISTS of the National Geographic Society and the Smithsonian Institution have a valuable new aid in their hunt for ancient relics in the jungles of Panama. The "motorcycle of the air"—the helicopter—is being used with great success by the exploring party. Although the "air buggies" have long been considered for such explorations, this is the first time that they have actually been used.

The helicopters work in pairs, so that if one of them is forced down the other can help it. The maneuverability of the aircraft makes them ideal for landing in small jungle clearings. The explorers say that they are now able to accomplish in half a day's time the work which formerly required two weeks.

★ ★ ★

An unusual library of live animals is one which is operated by the Wisconsin Humane Society in Milwaukee. Teachers, wishing to inform their pupils about a certain animal, simply call the library and borrow a specimen for a short length of time. Food, a cage, and full instructions are provided by the Humane Society.

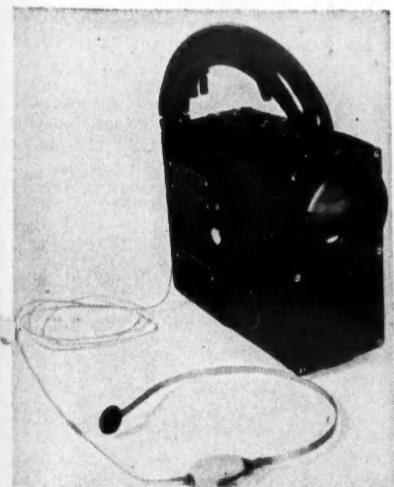
More than 100 animals are now available for classroom study, including rabbits, white mice, white rats, reptiles of various kinds, tropical fish, and canaries.

★ ★ ★

Scientists in Great Britain are using television in two novel ways. Atomic energy researchers employ video to observe dangerous atomic processes—from a safe distance. Then too, city planners are using television in their study of various traffic problems.

★ ★ ★

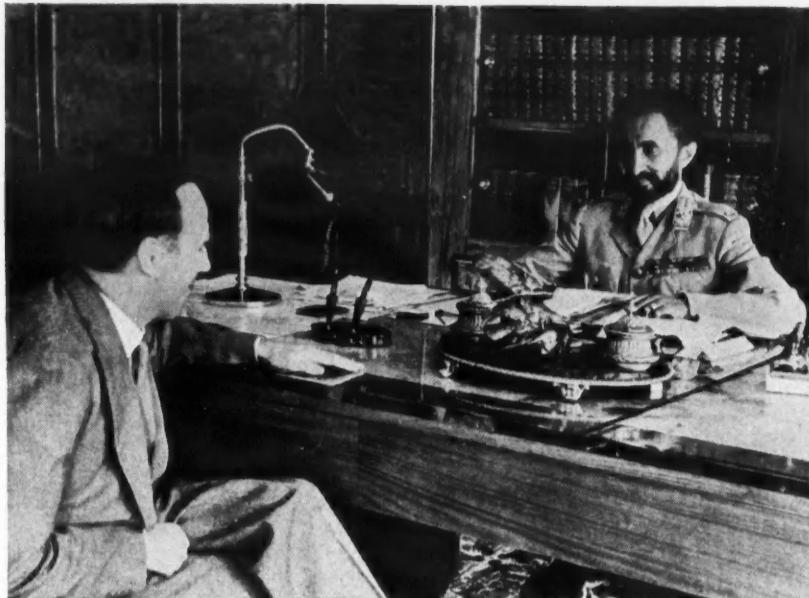
The National Geographic Society states that the bloodhound is disappearing. In England, only 30 adult dogs are left. In the United



AN ELECTRIC EYE, developed by the Signal Corps Engineering Laboratories, helps blind veterans to walk by warning them when they approach obstacles. The warning is in the form of a pulsating sound in an ear attachment, or a vibration of the instrument's handle.

States there are about 150 of these buggies. Contrary to the popular belief, bloodhounds are docile animals, and will rarely attack a person unless trained to do so. They will usually bay loudly when they have found their quarry.

—By HAZEL LEWIS.



HAILE SELASSIE, Emperor of Ethiopia, confers with a representative of the British government

INTERNATIONAL NEWS  
MAP FOR AMERICAN OBSERVER BY CRAIG

## Tune In!

A PROGRAM for lovers of the opera has returned to the ABC network Sundays. It is the Milton Cross Opera Album, in which that well-known opera authority plays records and transcriptions of great dramatic music. Cross provides his listeners with a running commentary on his recorded musical selections, duplicating his famous Saturday afternoon talks from the Metropolitan Opera House.

★ ★ ★

An eagerly awaited program starts on NBC Sunday evenings April 3. This is the Dean Martin-Jerry Lewis Show. These two funnymen have been tagged by Walter Winchell as "the best two-man comedy team since Gallagher and Shean."

The rise of Martin and Lewis in show business has been a meteoric one. They started as a team only two years ago. Since then they have played to capacity audiences in theaters throughout the country.

It is expected that Dean and Jerry will be seen on television also within a few months.

★ ★ ★

NBC and the United States Department of State are cooperating in the presentation of a new series of broad-



JEAN HERSHOLT, CBS's beloved "Dr. Christian," is an untiring worker for charitable organizations in his "real" life.

casts on the nation's current foreign policy. The program is heard early Sunday afternoon.

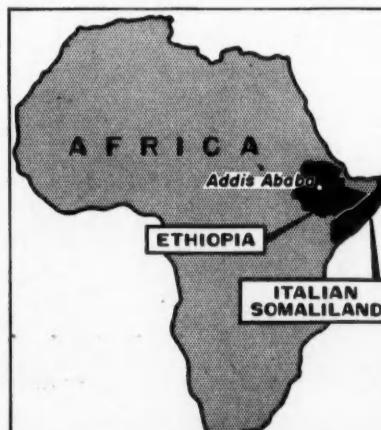
Secretary of State Dean Acheson and other top men of the State Department are participating in the series, as are other Cabinet members and leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives.

The series is covering all important areas of U. S. foreign policy. These include such questions as military assistance to other nations, telling America's story abroad, and U. S. economic foreign policy. One program will be devoted to a discussion of how foreign policy is formed and carried out. Richard Harkness is the commentator.

★ ★ ★

There have been a number of instances in radio where a program intended to be heard only once has evolved into a regular series. One such is "My Favorite Husband," a CBS comedy series starring Lucille Ball. This show came to the air as a special "one-shot" broadcast, but earned such enthusiastic acclaim that it became a regular network series.

—By GEORGE EDSON.



## Careers for Tomorrow - - *The Chiropodist*

A LITTLE-known profession in the field of health and medicine is chiropody, (ki-rōp'ō-dī) or podiatry (pō-diā-trī)—the care and treatment of human feet. A chiropodist is a highly trained specialist. In his work he treats foot ailments and infections, prescribes properly fitted shoes and hose, makes braces and other devices to correct deformities, and gives advice about foot hygiene.

Young men and women who are interested in this type of work can find excellent opportunities for success. The field is far from overcrowded—there is an average of only one chiropodist for every 25,000 persons in the United States. Since nearly 75 per cent of the American people suffer from some type of foot trouble, there is need for an increasing number of people who are trained to cure these ills.

Students who are thinking of becoming chiropodists should have above average scholastic ability and an interest in medical science. In addition, they should have a fair amount of mechanical ability—and they will be increasingly successful if they enjoy meeting people and helping them.

Before chiropodists can begin to treat patients, they must comply with the standards set by their states. They must have had an approved education in the field and must pass an examination before they can secure a license to practice. The State Board of Chiropody Examiners in each state capital can give complete information about license requirements.

A fairly long period of study and training is necessary in this field. Graduation from an accredited high school, plus one or two years of college work and four years at an accepted school of chiropody, are the basic requirements. In a few states a period of internship must also be spent in a hospital or clinic.

Courses of study at chiropody colleges include physiology, bacteriology,



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIROPODISTS

CHIROPODISTS treat our foot ailments

surgery, neurology, physical therapy, and others. High school students who are considering the field should take biology, chemistry, and similar subjects in order to acquire as good a background as possible for the science courses they will have to take later. Upon graduation from a school of chiropody, a student receives a degree of Doctor of Surgical Chiropody.

There are six colleges approved by the National Association of Chiropodists. They are: Temple University, School of Chiropody, Philadelphia;

California College of Chiropody, San Francisco; Illinois College of Chiropody and Foot Surgery, Chicago; Chicago College of Chiropody, Chicago; Ohio College of Chiropody, Cleveland; and Long Island University, First Institute of Podiatry, New York City.

Several branches of the work are open to the trained chiropodist. They may set up offices of their own and treat patients, or they may secure positions with a clinic, a hospital, or a government health service. Some chiropodists teach in colleges, and others become consultants for shoe industries, where they direct the designing and fitting of shoes.

Salaries which chiropodists earn are fairly high, the average being around \$4,000 a year. While quite a few in the field earn less than this amount, some earn as much as \$12,000 or more annually. How much a chiropodist earns depends in part, of course, on his ability, whether he works in a small town or large city, and his experience.

Chiropodists who have their own offices have the advantage of being able to set their hours of work. While the average chiropodist works eight hours a day, some go to their offices only by appointment. Calls at patients' homes or at hospitals must occasionally be made.

Further information on this field may be obtained from the National Association of Chiropodists, 3500 14th Street, N. W., Washington 10, D. C.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

## Historical Backgrounds - - *Our Nation's Traitors*

THE words *traitor* and *treason* have been in the news in recent weeks. President Truman referred to two leading American Communists—William Z. Foster and Eugene Dennis—as “traitors” after these men had made statements which were taken to mean that they would support Russia if war were to break out between the United States and the Soviet Union. Mildred Gillars, or Axis Sally, took her place on the roll of American traitors about two weeks ago when she was found guilty of treason.

*Traitor* and *treason* are called “ugly” words, and aside from their legal definitions, both have an evil meaning. They describe an individual who turns his back on his country in time of crisis and supports the enemy.

Benedict Arnold is, of course, our country's outstanding example of a traitor. After a promising career in the Continental Army, Arnold became embittered because he did not receive promotions he thought he should have. Later, his feelings of distaste for the colonial cause grew and he was reprimanded for showing favoritism toward the Tories. Finally, he went entirely over to the enemy's side and became a general in the British Army.

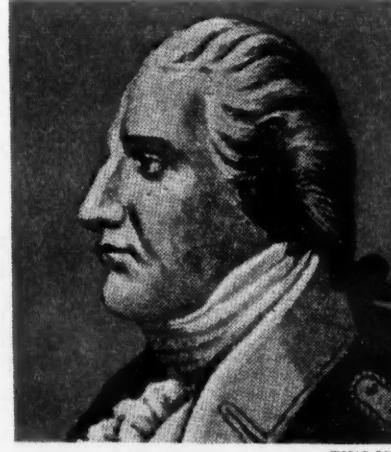
Arnold sailed for England after the Revolution and he never returned to this country. He died hated by the people he had betrayed and, ironically, by those he had helped as well.

When our Constitution was written, its framers wanted to protect the nation from such traitors as Arnold. They knew, though, how the crime

of treason had been misused in England. Throughout the years the meaning of the word had been abused so that convictions for treason were too frequently made to suppress the king's political opponents.

To guard against the possibility of such convictions in the United States, the writers of the Constitution defined the crime of treason very carefully. It can apply only to people, usually citizens, who fight with enemy forces against the country or who cooperate with the enemy in any way. The U. S. Congress has provided that persons found guilty of the crime might be sentenced to death or be imprisoned and fined.

Numerous convictions for treason have come in the wake of almost every war in which our country has fought.



BENEDICT ARNOLD—whose name is a synonym for treason

There are always some people who, either for money or because of their fanatical beliefs, are willing to work with an enemy against their own country.

A number of people were convicted of the crime during World War II, some for hiding enemy agents in this country, and others for giving military secrets to the Axis powers. Since the war, several citizens—other than Axis Sally—have been found guilty of treasonable acts in helping to broadcast enemy propaganda designed to demoralize our troops.

When William Z. Foster and Eugene Dennis made their statements about the part they would take in a war between the United States and Russia, they compared their position to that which Lincoln had taken in connection with the Mexican War. But the two Communists failed to point out that, even though Lincoln opposed the war, he also said that once our nation became engaged in the conflict, it was the duty of every citizen to support his country.

Similarly, Senator Robert M. LaFollette, Sr., opposed the nation's going into World War I—but in taking his stand he made it clear that there could be no dispute as to the duty of a citizen toward his country after a war had started.

Expressions of opinion and criticism of the United States have never been considered treason—the Constitution provides against that possibility. But when an individual helps a foreign country that is fighting his native land, he is guilty of this crime.

## Study Guide

### Coal Mines

1. According to John L. Lewis, what was the purpose of the work stoppage in the coal mines?
2. What other motives are thought by many observers to have been contributing reasons for the layoff?
3. Which one of our federal agencies does James Boyd head?
4. What charges do leaders of United Mine Workers make against Dr. Boyd?
5. How is Dr. Boyd defended by his supporters?
6. Tell some of the difficulties caused by overproduction of coal before the war.
7. According to David Wittels in the *Saturday Evening Post*, is coal mining a dangerous occupation today, or has it become a very safe one?

### Discussion

1. Do you think that labor-saving machinery should be introduced in all coal mines? Why, or why not?
2. What do you think can be done to deal with the long-range problem of over-production in the coal mines?

### Argentina

1. Why have Argentina's leaders become increasingly worried in recent months?
2. What is the reason for Argentina's losing many of its foreign customers since the war?
3. In what way has President Peron tried to win the support of the workers?
4. How have the government's policies affected the cost of living?
5. What steps has President Peron taken to eliminate criticism?
6. Why do many leaders of our government feel that we must maintain a cooperative attitude toward Argentina even though we do not agree with some of its policies? What is the reply made to their arguments?
7. Name two leading exports of Argentina.

### Discussion

1. Do you think that Argentina was justified in keeping the prices of its farm products high and refusing to sell for any less at a time when Great Britain and other nations needed food badly? Why, or why not?

2. In the past year or so, the United States has been more friendly toward Argentina than formerly. Do you approve of this change in policy on the part of our government? Explain your answer.

### Miscellaneous

1. When and how can debate in the Senate be limited under the new filibuster rule?
2. State briefly the arguments for and against the baseball “reserve clause.”
3. Describe the provisions of some of the anti-Communist bills now before Congress.
4. What action may the UN Assembly take next month with respect to Spain?
5. Which nations are definitely joining the North Atlantic Pact, and which ones may still decide to join?
6. What mineral resources does Ethiopia have?
7. Describe some of the acts that have been held to be treason against the United States.

### References

“The Bloody Price of Coal,” by David G. Wittels, *Saturday Evening Post*, February 12, 1949. Accidents that occur in coal mining.

“Props for Ailing Coal,” *Business Week*, March 12, 1949. Possible solutions for the coal industry's problems.

“Evita Peron,” by Milton Bracker, *New York Times Magazine*, October 10, 1948. Portrait of Argentina's first lady.

“Made-to-Order Reform,” *Newsweek*, February 14, 1949. Argentina's new constitution.

### Answers to Vocabulary Test

1. (c) uproar; 2. (c) eager; 3. (a) difficult; 4. (d) odd or strange; 5. (a) distressed; 6. (a) muddled and inconsistent; 7. (b) harmless; 8. (a) sorrowful scenes.